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He Trained Minutemen, Judo Instructor Says

By JAMES M. CORAM
Star Staff Writer

An Alexandria judo instructor said he has been teaching guerrilla warfare tactics to the first known unit of Minutemen in this part of the country.

Mario Garcia Kohly Jr. said that as recently as two weeks ago, he conducted maneuvers for Minutemen at a close-combat course, which he said "may have been south of Washington."

He would not say whether this was the site in Prince William County, Va., where authorities uncovered a guerrilla warfare training school and a cache of dynamite Thursday.

Prince William County Deputy Sheriff Bobby Cornell said "there are no further leads to be investigated at this time" in connection with the discovery of the training site, and the FBI added that it did not plan to pursue the case further.

Cornell said that if any new leads should turn up "the investigation would be resumed." He also said that there are no grounds at present for filing criminal charges against anyone in the case.

Admits Membership

Kohly first denied knowledge of the Minutemen, a right-wing extremist group which encourages private ownership of firearms for possible use against Communists, saying the only Minutemen he knew of were those in 1776.

Later, however, he admitted membership but insisted he was



MARIO G. KOHLY Jr.
Star Staff Photo

not the leader of the 12 to 15 member cell which has been holding field exercises in deep woods near Occoquan, Va., and in the mountains near Reading, Pa.

A Reading newspaper editor, Jerry Kobrin of the Berks County Record, said contingents of Minutemen train every Sunday at three sites near the city. His paper published a story about the training locations Thursday.

But Pennsylvania state police refused to confirm or deny the story or to answer any questions about it. "This is intelligence information," said Sgt. Robert Schuck. "What we know we're not at liberty to reveal."

Kobrin said the Minutemen have been training with mortars, bazookas, hand grenades, rifles and dynamite.

An FBI spokesman said that it is not illegal to possess such weapons as bazookas, hand grenades and mortars.

He said they are not covered in Federal firearms statutes, which do, however, prohibit private ownership of machine guns and any sawed-off firearm which could be concealed on the person.

Convoy Reported

According to Kobrin, the Minutemen unit in Reading includes at least two members of the American Nazi Party. He said the men assemble on Sunday mornings at a suburban shopping center, then drive in convoys to the Blue Mountains, to an old limestone quarry within a mile of the city or to an abandoned strip-mining location in adjoining Schuylkill County.

Kohly opened his Alexandria judo school in February. The Minutemen unit was formed at the end of that month, government sources said.

He said he taught hand-to-hand combat at both the Virginia and Pennsylvania sites to "interested young men." He said not everyone present was a member of the Minutemen, but "there may have been some Minutemen among them."

Asked about the dynamite removed from Prince William County, he said, "I don't know what use the dynamite may have or why Minutemen would want it."

Kohly said he conducts his "classes" in "wooded areas where guerrilla warfare could go on." He said the instruction consists of target practice, hand-to-hand combat, and techniques for disarming a man holding a knife or gun.

"Sort of Picnic"

He said there was no need for the public to get alarmed about the "combat" outings. He described a recent one as "sort of a picnic" in which five or six men went to a National Park near Quantico, Va., for training.

"The only thing we had along was a rubber knife," Kohly said.

An American-born Cuban citizen, Kohly said he became interested in the Minutemen while teaching judo to Cuban rebels in Miami. He joined the organization, he said, "to teach them what I knew and to learn what they knew."

Kohly said he does not offer free judo lessons to Minutemen who attend his judo-karate school at 3925 Mount Vernon Ave. in Alexandria, nor does he attempt to influence his customers about joining.

He lives with his Cuban wife and two sons at 1121 S. 18th St. in Arlington.

MAR 2 1968

Pchs. Erquiaga Juan
ORG 1: Minutemen
ORG 1: Rangers

Arms Factory Raid Yields 373 Machine Guns

BY WALTER AMES and
CHARLES E. DAVIS JR.

Times Staff Writers

Investigators seized 373 machine guns late Friday at a City of Industry arms plant to prevent them from falling into the hands of private armies in California.

Armed with a search warrant, the raiding party entered the Erquiaga Arms Co., 15036 E. Proctor Ave., just after 5 p.m.

They found the machine guns stacked in racks, muzzles down. They also seized about 100,000 rounds of ammunition and three machine gun silencers which had been built inside empty beer cans.

Former Castroite

The raid was made by about 30 federal and state agents and deputy sheriff's. Atty. Gen. Thomas C. Lynch said.

The plant reportedly is owned by Juan Erquiaga. It was understood that he is now on a trip to Guatemala. It also was understood that Erquiaga once was a member of Castro's revolutionary

forces but is now strongly anti-Castro.

The search warrant issued by Municipal Judge Fred Rabb of Citrus Municipal Court in West Covina charged that the company had no state permit for possession or sale of machine guns.

However, Atty. Gen. Lynch admitted the implications were much more serious and that there had been reports the guns would be sold illegally to U.S. citizens.

"Speed was necessary in this raid," said Lynch, "since our office has definite information that some of these illegal weapons were intended for private armies in California."

A spokesman for the attorney general identified such extremist organizations as the Minutemen and the Rangers as among intended recipients. Lynch has proposed a bill to the state Legislature urging that such organizations be outlawed.

The machine guns are about 20 inches long. They have a pistol grip instead of a stock, so one could easily be concealed beneath a man's papers and files.

coat. They fire a 9 mm bullet at a reported rate of 35 rounds a second.

When the raiding party entered the one-story plant, they found four employees there. The agents said George Ingram was the man in charge and that he informed them Erquiaga was out of the country.

Workers at an adjacent plant told reporters the machine guns were frequently tested in an area behind the arms plant, test rounds being fired into a barrel.

This news surprised Sheriff's Lt. E. D. Villines who led deputies on the raid. The plant is only two long city blocks from the City of Industry sheriff's office.

Each of the machine guns bore the marking "JURE" and below this, "MR64" and also the name "Erquiaga."

Although no arrests were made, Dep. Dist. Atty. Maurice Oppenheim, who prepared the search warrant and accompanied the raiding party, said evidence seized will be studied by the district attorney's office with a view to possible prosecution.

The raiders spent hours at the plant studying company